FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SENATOR-ELECT BIRKHOLZ NAMED CHAIR OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

(LANSING)- Senator-elect Patty Birkholz, R-Saugatuck Township, has been named chair of the 2003 Natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee today by incoming Senate Majority Leader Ken Sikkema.

"Conserving our natural resources and protecting our environment for future generations is of the utmost importance," Birkholz said. "I will take this new challenge very seriously because it effects every person who lives in Michigan now and who will live in Michigan in years to come."

As. Committee chair Birkholz will be responsible for overseeing committee legislation that will discuss the development of a conservation, recreation and environmental protection agenda before it is moved to the full Senate floor.

"Patty Birkholz's experience on the Land Use and Environment Committee in the House and her strong local record in preserving our Natural Resources provides her with the vast knowledge and experience this committee needs to move Michigan forward." Sikkema stated.

Birkholz is serving in her third term in the House of Representatives where she is the first woman to hold the position of Speaker Pro-Tempore. She has served as chair of the Local Government and Urban Policy Committee and is a member of Energy and Technology, Land Use and Environment, and Tax Policy.